(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) According to the information furnished by the University Grants Commission (UGC), the salient points of the vocationalisation of Education Programme, which is termed as Career Oriented Programme during the Tenth Plan, are as under:-

(i) The objective of the Programme is to introduced career and market oriented, skill enhancing, add-on courses that have utility for job, self-employment and empowerment of students.

(ii) It will be in the form of Certificate/Diploma/Advanced Diploma which a student may opt parallel to their conventional B.A./B.Sc./ B.Com. Programme.

(iii) Under the Programme, the assistance will be available to the tune of Rs. 5 lakhs as one time "Seed Money" for five years in the Humanities and Commerce streams and Rs. 7 lakhs for five years for Science streams.

(iv) Apart from the teachers/staff members, guest faculty could be drawn from training and professional institutions and from production related establishments, for the purpose of teaching these subjects. Individuals having expertise in the discipline may also serve as guest faculty.

(b) UGC has not provided any model courses. It has been left to the Universities/Colleges to identify their own 'need based' Career Oriented Courses.

(c) Does not arise.

Agro-based vocational training courses at higher secondary level

440. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are planning to introduce agro-based vocational training courses at the higher secondary school level;

(b) whether students can acquire certificates of skill in different agro-vocations like crop husbandry, animal husbandry, horticulture and dairying, regardless of their formal high school education; and

(c) whether the Ministry has decided to phase out the existing 6700 vocational schools which have not met the desired standards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (c) based on the recommendation of the various review groups/committees, the existing scheme of vocationalisation of the secondary education is being revised to make it modular in nature and competency based. The scheme shall also be available for the persons who have not got any formal high school education. Keeping in view the requirement of industry/user organizations, experts have identified various vocational clusters including that of agriculture, animal and primary industries, food processing, furniture, wood products and furnishing handloom and handicraft and textile and jute industries, clothing and footwear for vocational education proposed to be provided under the revised scheme initially. A large number of agro-based vocational training courses are available under these clusters.

The schools providing vocational education under the existing scheme may also participate in the proposed revised scheme.

Anganwari Kendras

† 441. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of 'Anganwari Kendras' opened under ICDS in the country, State-wise and the number of cases pending with the Ministry for approval in regard to the demands made for opening 'Anganwari Kendras';

(b) the number of development blocks in Himachal Pradesh that have been included under ICDS, but no posts of programme officers have been created as yet; and

(c) the reasons for not creating the said posts so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA): (a) The State-wise number of functional Anganwadi Centres under the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme, as on 30.6.2003, is given in the Statement enclosed *(See* below)

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.